



Utah Crop Progress & Conditions

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Issue 16 Week Ending July 15, 2007

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Agricultural Summary

Hot, dry weather continues to be a major concern for farmers and ranchers in Utah. There were scattered thunderstorms across the State but only small accumulations of precipitation. Days suitable for fieldwork last week averaged 7.0. Irrigation water is being limited in many areas. Statewide, irrigation water supply is rated 24 percent very short, 40 percent short and 36 percent adequate. Crops are suffering and farmers are allowing pasture to dry up so they can irrigate crops. Soil Moisture was rated 72 percent short or very short for the week, an increase of 5 percentage points from the previous week.

Field Crops Summary

Wheat and barley harvest is underway and should be a major activity in the next few weeks. Eighty two percent of winter wheat acreage was rated either fair or good, down 4 percentage points from the previous week. Barley was 84 percent fair or good, the same level as last week. Cutting of second crop hay is going strong and should be winding down in the next two weeks. Silage corn has grown exceptionally well where irrigation water is available. Safflower is in flower at this point in northern Utah. It appears fair to poor in most locations. Harvest of apricots and sweet cherries is winding down. Sweet cherry yields were lighter than normal due to cool weather at pollination. Harvest of tart cherries is 54 percent complete.

Livestock Summary

Range and pasture conditions were rated 46 percent poor or very poor, an increase of 6 percentage points from last week. Ranchers are beginning to move cattle from summer ranges early because of poor range conditions and range fires. Movement of cattle from summer range was 24 percent complete by the end of last week compared to the 5-year average of 4 percent for the same point in time. The dry conditions aggravated wildfires burning in Utah. The Milford Flat fire has burned a lot of rangeland and killed some cattle. Damage to farms from the Neola North fire includes rangeland, hay, buildings, equipment, livestock, and fences. Cattle feed is expected to be scarce because of the early and increased demand. Some ranchers may have to sell cattle inventories.

Crop Progress for Week Ending July 15, 2007

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5 Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Barley Headed Stage	97	96	99	96
Oats Headed Stage	82	73	83	81
Oats Harvested (Grain)	25	22	45	33
Alfalfa Second Cutting	56	31	59	45
Other Hay Cut	80	78	71	76
Apricots Harvested	82	63	55	61
Sweet Cherries Harvested	88	50	84	88
Tart Cherries Harvested	54	22	34	36

Crop & Livestock Condition for Week Ending July 15, 2007

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Range & Pasture	15	31	38	16	0
Spring Wheat	4	21	41	29	5
Winter Wheat	4	6	41	41	8
Barley	0	2	31	53	14
Corn	0	1	24	60	15
Sheep	0	0	17	77	6
Cattle/calves	0	2	23	65	10

Livestock Percent for Week Ending July 15, 2007

Item	Current Week	Previous Week	Previous Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle Moved from Summer Range	24	0	16	4

Soil Moisture for Week Ending July 15, 2007

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Topsoil	30	42	28	0
Subsoil	24	45	31	0
Irrigation water supplies	24	40	36	0
Stock water supplies	12	40	48	0